

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 MCE-00 ACDA-07 SS-15
TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /056 R

DRAFTED BY PM/SAS:SGEIS:RF
APPROVED BY PM/SAS - FCORRY
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EUR/CE - JHURLEY
EUR/NE - CSCHALLER

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R 161358Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
USCINCEUR
DOD/DSAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193744

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BE, SZ

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF M109 GUN PARTS

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF SWITZERLAND HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION
TO SELL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM THE FOLLOWING PARTS
FOR M109 SELF PROPELLED HOWITZERS: 22,000 TRACK SHOES,
24,000 RUBBER PADS, 146 GUN TUBES.

2. SINCE THE ABOVE MATERIEL IS OF US ORIGIN AND PROCURED
THROUGH FMS, USG CONSENT FOR THE TRANSFER IS REQUIRED.
UNDER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 3 OF THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL
ACT, WE ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN APPROPRIATE TRANSFER AND USE
ASSURANCES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM AND PROVIDE
CONGRESS WITH A 30 DAY ADVANCED NOTIFICATION OF OUR INTENT
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TO CONSENT TO THE PROPOSED TRANSFER. HOWEVER, THE
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1977 SIGNED BY THE
PRESIDENT ON AUGUST 4, EXEMPTS FROM THE PRIOR CONGRESSIONAL
NOTIFICATION ALL THIRD-PARTY TRANSFERS OF: QUOTE, MAIN-
TENANCE REPAIR OR OVERHAUL DEFENSE SERVICES, OR OF THE
REPAIR PARTS OR OTHER DEFENSE ARTICLES USED IN FURNISHING
SUCH SERVICES, IF THE TRANSFER WILL NOT RESULT IN ANY

INCREASE, RELATIVE TO THE ORIGINAL SPECIFICATIONS, IN THE
MILITARY CAPABILITY OF THE DEFENSE ARTICLES.... TO BE

MAINTAINED, REPAIRED, OR OVERHAULED. UNQUOTE CON-
SEQUENTLY, IF THE PARTS ARE TO BE USED FOR THE MAIN-
TENANCE AND REPAIR OF M109S PRESENTLY IN BELGIAN
INVENTORY, CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION MAY NOT BE REQUIRED
AND FORMAL USG CONSENT CAN BE GIVEN UPON RECEIPT OF THE
APPROPRIATE TRANSFER AND USE ASSURANCES.

3. DEPARTMENT HAS LEARNED THROUGH COMMERCIAL SOURCES IN
THE US THAT SABIEX, A PRIVATE BELGIAN FIRM, IS THE IN-
TENDED RECIEPIENT OF THESE PARTS. SABIEX MAY BE UNDER
CONTRACT BY GOB TO REPAIR ITS M109S, OR SABIEX MAY BE
INTENDING TO RETRANSFER THE PARTS TO ANOTHER CUSTOMER
OR TO MAKE NON-MILITARY USE OF THE ITEMS. ADDITIONALLY,
THE MILITARY ATTACHE OF SWISS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON STATED
THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE TRANSACTION WAS TO
BE HANDLED BY NORCA MACHINE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK.

4. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO INQUIRE OF GOB REGARDING THE
END USE OF THESE ITEMS. SHOULD GOB CONFIRM THAT THE PARTS
IN QUESTION ARE FOR USE BY BELGIAN ARMED FORCES, DEPART-
MENT WILL PROVIDE TEXT OF TRANSFER AND USE ASSURANCES. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPARE PARTS, ARMS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1587505
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: MASS, BE, SZ, US
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